

June 28, 2007

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:
www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

Homeowners Tax Credit and Renters Tax Credit Applications- Now Available!

The 2007 Homeowners Tax Credit and Renters Tax Credit applications are available at:

<http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/taxcredits.html>

There is no charge to apply and nothing to lose by doing so.

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

BRAC- Get Involved!

The Howard County BRAC Task Force is has now moved to into phase II of its work. Phase II will focus on the impact of overall Fort Meade growth on 6 specific areas in Howard County. They are: Work Force Development, Transportation, Education, Infrastructure, Work Force Housing and Health and Human Services. Residents and business persons of Howard County are invited to participate in the work of the Task Force during this phase. If you are interested, please contact the Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office at kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

The next Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting will be on **Wednesday, July 25, 2007 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This meeting will be held in **the Tyson Room of the George Howard Building**. These meetings will start with a 15 minute update, given by Executive Director Kent Menser, on BRAC actions related to Howard County. The remainder of the time will be devoted to discussion of ideas, concerns and recommendations raised by the attendees. For any questions on meetings, call Kent Menser at 410-313-6521.

For more information on BRAC please visit http://www.co.ho.md.us/HCG_ExecutiveBRAC.htm

Mandatory Water Restrictions

Repairs to a major water delivery main in Baltimore County are not yet complete, and it will be necessary for Howard County to put a mandatory outdoor water ban into effect beginning Friday, May 18 until further notice.

The Baltimore County water main delivers a significant amount of drinking water to Howard County. Loss of this key water supply continues to reduce Howard County's ability to meet the additional demand outdoor water use places on the system during warm summer months. In addition, outdoor water restrictions ensure that adequate water supply and pressure are available for basic customer service, especially emergency fire protection. Residents with PRIVATE WELLS ARE NOT AFFECTED by these mandatory restrictions.

The outdoor ban will be in effect all day on holidays and weekends beginning at 6 p.m. on Fridays and continuing until midnight on Sundays.

THESE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ALL RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL WATER USERS CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.

During restricted days and hours **YOU MAY NOT ...**

- Water lawns
- Wash paved or outdoor surfaces and structures such as streets, roads, sidewalks, driveways, decks, patios, parking areas, tennis courts or vehicles
- Use sprinklers and other automatic watering devices for purposes of irrigation and watering of gardens, landscaped areas, trees, shrubs, and other outdoor plants
- Use water for any non-recycling ornamental purposes such as outdoor waterfalls, misting machines and reflective pools
- Use power washers
- Use water for non-commercial washing or cleaning of mobile equipment including automobiles, trucks, trailers and boats
- Fill or top off swimming pools, unless newly constructed or repaired

During Restricted time **YOU MAY ...**

- Water your garden and house plants or shrubs with buckets, watering cans or a hand-held hose with automatic shutoff type nozzle
- Have your car washed at a commercial car wash

Representatives of the Department of Public Works will enforce these mandatory water use restrictions. Penalties for violating outdoor water restrictions may result in termination of service. The restrictions apply to approximately 66,000 customer accounts in the eastern half of the county.

For more information on water use restrictions, residents may call the Howard County Water Restriction Information Line at (410)313-4949 or the Bureau of Utilities at (410)313-4900

Howard County Advises Comcast Cable Subscribers to Understand Options before Signing “Opt-Out” Form

The Howard County Office of the Cable Administrator and the Office of Consumer Affairs want to advise Howard County residents who are Comcast Cable subscribers to carefully review their latest billing statement and the “Opt-Out” of Arbitration notice that is included.

The “Opt-Out” notification is contained in a pamphlet entitled “Arbitration Notice.” Arbitration is an informal dispute resolution process that has been chosen by Comcast as its preferred method to resolve disputes with their customers. Per the “notice,” the rules to be used in the arbitration process will be those of the Federal Arbitration Act. If subscribers do not “Opt-Out” either by sending an “Opt Out” letter which includes their name, address and account number stating that they wish to “Opt-Out” of arbitration or by going on-line to “Opt Out,” they will have to resolve all disputes with Comcast through arbitration.

Stephen D. Hannan, Administrator of the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs, urges Comcast subscribers to review this document and make a decision based upon its terms. Subscribers who do “Opt Out” will still be able to use the two venues that were designed for them to resolve disputes - Howard County’s Office of the Cable Administrator and Howard County’s Small Claims Court. The Small Claims Court is designed to be a less expensive formal means for consumers and merchants to settle complaints.

Customers who do wish to “Opt-Out” must send letters stating that they “do not wish to resolve disputes with Comcast through arbitration” within 30 days of receiving the notice. Letters should be mailed to Comcast, Attn: Legal Dept/Arbitration, 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Customers who have thrown away or lost their statements can also “opt out” on line at [Opt-Out](#)

For more information and to have any questions answered, please contact the **Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or the Office of the Cable Administrator at 410 313-3318.**

Howard Transit and Connect-A-Ride Bus Service Transition to New Operator

Effective July 1, 2007, First Transit, Inc., of Cincinnati, OH, will be the new contract operator of Howard Transit and Connect-A-Ride bus service.

Customers who experience interruptions in service are advised to call **1-800-270-9553** where representatives will be available from 6 a.m. through 7 p.m. to answer questions. Customers are also encouraged to check the [Howard Transit](#) and [Connect-A-Ride](#) websites for the latest updates. Information will also be posted on the electronic message boards located at various bus stops and shelters, and staff will be positioned at locations throughout the service area to assist customers.

Recalls of Popular Childrens' Toys and Toothpaste

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) advised that MS USA Trading, Inc. of NJ, distributor of Colgate toothpaste, has recalled all 5 ounce tubes because it has the potential to be contaminated with diethylene glycol, a chemical found in anti-freeze. The company is concerned about potential risks from chronic exposure to DEG and exposure to DEG in certain populations, such as children and individuals with kidney or liver disease.

Colgate was distributed in NJ, NY, PA and MD in discount retail stores. The product comes in a 5 ounce (100ml) with the words "made in South Africa" printed on the box. The recall includes the following brands: Regular, Gel, Triple and Herbal.

No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. Consumers who have purchased 5 ounce of "Colgate Toothpaste" in Regular, Gel, Triple and Herbal are urged to return

them to the place of purchase for a full refund. **Consumers with questions may contact the company at 1-201-869-0010.**

Visit the FDA's website by clicking here <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/toothpaste.html> for more detailed information.

In another recall the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a recall for the popular childrens Thomas the Tank engine toys also made in China and distributed by RC2 Corp., of Oak Brook, Ill. The surface paints on the recalled products contain lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately.

The recall involves wooden vehicles, buildings and other train set components for young children. The front of the packaging has the logo "Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway" on the upper left-hand corner. A manufacturing code may be located on the bottom of the product or inside the battery cover. Toys marked with codes containing "WJ" or "AZ" are not included in this recall.

These toys were sold at toy stores and various retailers nationwide from **January 2005 through June 2007 for between \$10 and \$70.**

For additional information, contact RC2 Corp. toll-free at **(866) 725-4407** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Thursday and between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. CT Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at <http://recalls.rc2.com>

Information from the CPSC can be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

Sign Up For the "Greenovation": Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt

On **Tuesday, July 24**, the Green Building Institute is sponsoring an introductory class on **Don't Treat Your Soil Like Dirt**. The seminar will cover the following modules:

- All about composting for your backyard garden & your health
- What is composting?
- Why should I compost?
- How to make your own backyard compost to feed your garden soil.
- How to brew your own horticultural compost tea. Prevent disease and pests on both outdoor and indoor plants.
- What goes and doesn't go into the compost bin (ins/outs)?
- How do I make a compost bin?
- How to build the best soil using compost
- How do I prevent unwanted (bugs & rodents) from getting into the bin?
- What is plant health care?
- How to build and utilize raised bed gardens.

The seminar will be held at the Green Building Institute in The Enviro-Center at 7761 Waterloo Road) (Rte. 175), Jessup, Maryland 20794. Registration check-in is from 6:45 PM- 7:00 PM The seminar modules will begin at 7:00 PM and end at 9:00 PM.

For more information and registration please visit www.greenbuildinginstitute.org or you may call the institute at 443-733-1234.

Howard County's Commission on the Environment and Sustainability

One of County Executive Ken Ulman's Administration's signature campaigns is the bold and innovative protection of the environment in Howard County. Step one, according to Ulman, was the creation of the Commission on the Environment and Sustainability.

The Commission holds bi-monthly public meetings to accommodate morning and evening schedules. The next meeting will be Tuesday, **July 10 at 8:00 AM. Location to be announced.** For additional information please go the Commission's website at http://www.co.ho.md.us/CES/CES_HomePage.htm or contact Josh Feldmark at the [Commission on The Environment and Sustainability](#)

Horizon Foundation Soliciting New Proposals for Community Health Issues Program

The Horizon Foundation is soliciting proposals for the Community Health Issues Program (CHIP). This grant program responds to needs in the Howard County community. Community health and wellness has many dimensions. Through CHIP funding, the Horizon Foundation is seeking your help in addressing them.

The Horizon Foundation is interested in focused proposals in any of the following areas:

1. Projects aimed at improving community health and wellness in Howard County;
2. Projects designed to plan or test improved service delivery approaches;
3. Projects or activities intended to improve the sustainability of community based activities;
4. Programs to enhance the wellness or health of specific populations.

For further information on proposal applications and submittal, please contact The Horizon Foundation at 410-715-0311.

Howard County Government Launches New Show

Howard County Government TV has produced a program on universal design. Among the people featured is President, Mark Schlossberg of the Homes for Life Coalition. Mark will show some of the Universal Design features in his home.

The show airs in Howard County on Comcast Channel 70 and Verizon Channel 44 at 12:30 PM every day, 8 PM on Wednesday s, 9 PM on Fridays, and 10 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

CA to Offer Before and After Care for Selected Howard County Summer School Programs

The Columbia Association's School Age Services (SAS) program will provide before and after school child care for selected Howard County Summer School programs. Child care is available for children between the ages of 5 and 14 at Cradlerock School, Clemens Crossing Elementary School and Hammond High School (for BSAP Elementary Summer Learning Camp).

The program will operate each day of the summer school program from 7am until the beginning of class and from the end of each class day until 6pm. Registration forms are available at the HCPSS offices, individual schools and the Columbia Association Headquarters building.

For additional information, please **call 410-715-3116** or send an e-mail to bunny.egerton@columbiaassociation.com.

Financial Assistance Available for Summer Pool Memberships at CA

Financial Assistance for summer pool memberships at CA's outdoor pools is available through the Columbia Foundation for individuals and families who qualify. Beginning in 2006, The Columbia Foundation partnered with the family of the late Ann Scherr and established the Ann Scherr Fund, offering grants for summer pool memberships to assist income qualified individuals and families in paying the already-reduced rates offered by the Columbia Association.

For more information on the Ann Scherr Fund at the Columbia Foundation and how to apply for a membership, please contact the Columbia Association Membership Service Center at **410.730.1801**.

NEIGHBOR RIDE- Looking for Spanish and Korean Speaking Volunteers!

Neighbor Ride, a volunteer-based supplemental transportation program, helps residents age 60 and over maintain a good quality of life by providing friendly and reliable door-to-door transportation for medical appointments, religious services, educational pursuits, recreational and social events, exercise classes, and other day-to-day activities. Dates for volunteer training are: June 29 at 12 noon, and July 17 at 7pm at the Neighbor Ride office.

* Neighbor Ride is looking for Spanish and Korean speaking volunteers to become drivers who can converse with bi-lingual riders.

For more information and to register for a volunteer orientation, contact Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE, volunteer@neighborride.org or visit their website at <http://www.neighborride.org/>

Belmont Summer Concerts: Moonlight & Music- July 21st!

Listen to great music and enjoy fine cuisine prepared by Belmont's award winning chefs. Co-sponsored by the Department of Recreation & Parks, tickets are \$35 per person and include concert, dinner, non-alcoholic beverages and parking. Beer and wine may be purchased at the event. For additional information and reservations, call the Belmont Conference Center.

Belmont Conference Center, 6555 Belmont Woods Road, Elkridge/
July 21, 2007 6 pm / Contact: Belmont Conference Center, (410) 772-4300

2007 Summer Reading Club at the Howard County Library

Beginning **June 2**, everyone in Howard County, babies to adults, can read for fun and earn prizes!

Read or listen to books from pre-selected reading lists, or choose your own books, magazines, and newspapers. Just kick back, relax, and READ.

Babies – (up to age 3) can join the Read to Me Club with mom, dad, or any adult.

Kids - Put on your seat belts for Reading Roadtrip!

Teens - Join N2BKS and let your imagination zoom!

Adults - Why Should Kids Have all the Fun?

Register at any [branch library](#), or [online](#).